Testament history, and to accept the majestic claim of the children of Israel to be God's Chosen People, was proving bitter in execution. Both Arabs and Jews were able plausibly to blame the British Government for a broken promise; and the feeling of resentment thus engendered grew steadily more intense, the Jews claiming that the Arabs could be conveniently accommodated in Transjordania, the Arabs protesting against the steady influx of subsidised Jewish immigrants.

It is difficult to imagine anyone less equipped by nature than Lord Passfield to deal with so turbulent a situation. No one could fail to be impressed by the immense amount of information he had managed to pack into the small compass of his mind, by his diligence, well-meaningness and desire to be scrupulously impartial; but his small, rotund figure, his confused eyes and thick voice, impressive at a Fabian lecture, were pitiably inadequate to mediate between inflamed Jew and Arab. Confronting him with their bitter antagonism was like confronting an elderly specialist on sex repressions with a homicidal maniac in pursuit of a small girl.

As the Congress and Wafdist leaders had expected sympathetic treatment from a Labour Government, so did the Jews. Lord Passfield, however, leant towards the Arab side, thereby bringing down much trouble upon his own, and, until it virtually repudiated his policv, the Government's, head. Sonorous Hebrew curses were called down upon him, and it was even said of him, as of Herr Hider and Dr. Goebbels, that so cruel a chastiser of the Jewish race must be himself a renegade Jew.

His wife, the redoubtable Mrs. Sidney Webb, who, by refusing to become Lady Passfield, found an original means of extracting notoriety from her husband's peerage and of annoying *The Times,* was included with him in these imprecations; and in various parts of Palestine the two of them were burnt in effigy, their figures, often seen at Summer Schools and other enlightened gatherings, his short and plump, hers tall and lean, consumed with flames amid the shouts of angry Zionists. From this predicament they escaped when the National Government was formed, and Lord